

35. OCCURRENCE OF *BUTEA MONOSPERMA* VAR. *LUTEA* (WITT.) MAHESHWARI
IN RAJASTHAN

During my posting in the forest areas of southern Aravallis in Udaipur district, I came across many trees of the yellow flowered *Butea monosperma* var. *lutea* which is still not included in any of the floras of Rajasthan State (Bhandari 1990; Sharma and Tiagi 1979; Shetty and Pandey 1983; Shetty and Singh 1987, 1991, 1993; Singh 1983).

The red flowered species of *Butea monosperma* is very common in Udaipur district and is mostly confined to the foothill forests; the yellow variety is rare, but can be seen in the same habitat. *B. monosperma* var. *lutea* closely resembles *B. monosperma*, except that it has yellow flowers. Occurrence of the yellow flowered *Butea* in Rajasthan is worth recording.

The Bhils and other tribals of Udaipur district consider the yellow flowered *Butea* trees sacred and never cut them.

Table 1: Location of *B. monosperma* var. *lutea* in Udaipur dist.

S. No.	Tehsil (Taluka)	Location	No. of trees	Status of land
1	Girwa	Alsigarh to Pai village road	1	Revenue
2	Girwa	Near Pipalwas village, crop field to east of road	2	Revenue
3	Jhadol	Near Pargiapada village (on Paliakhera-Madri road)	1	Revenue
4	Jhadol	Mohammad-Falasia village	2	Revenue
5	Kotra	Near Patharpadi Chowki of Phulwari Wildlife Sanctuary	1	Revenue
6	Kotra	Umari Forest Block of Phulwari WLS near Bordi village	4	Reserve Forest

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36. NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *BAUHINIA WALLICHII* MACBR.
AND *B. OVATIFOLIA* T. CHEN, LEGUMINOSAE: CAESALPINIOIDEAE

Nayar (1996: 160, 180) included *Bauhinia wallichii* Macbr. and *B. ovatifolia* T. Chen in the list of endemic plants of "North Eastern India" and "Arunachal Pradesh Himalaya" respectively. The distribution of *B. wallichii* was given as "Arunachal Pradesh, Assam,

Meghalaya, West Bengal and adjacent Bangladesh." The same distribution for *B. wallichii* was also given by Sanjappa (1992: 7), but they probably overlooked the publication of Larsen and Larsen (1980: 195) where it was stated that the species is distributed from India

(Silhet, Assam) to Myanmar and northern Vietnam. Recently, it has also been reported from southeastern Yunnan in China (Zhang and Chen 1996) and from northern Thailand (Larsen 1999). Therefore, considering the actual area of distribution, *B. wallichii* should not be referred to as an endemic species.

As regards *B. ovatifolia*, Nayar (1996: 180) gave the distribution as "Arunachal Pradesh and adjacent Tibetan hills." Sanjappa (1992: 4) and Chowdhery *et al.* (1996: 392) have also reported this species from Arunachal Pradesh. In the course of my study on the Bauhinias, I have, however, found that only one collection (*J. Joseph* 48504 – CAL) from the forest around Tihun in Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh comes

very close to *B. ovatifolia*, but its identity has yet to be confirmed (see Bandyopadhyay *et al.* 1993). I do not know the source from which the distribution of *B. ovatifolia* in Arunachal Pradesh has been taken by the aforesaid authors, but if it is based on *J. Joseph* 48504 (CAL) then it would be appropriate to treat *B. ovatifolia* as endemic only to the type locality (Tianyang, Guangxi) till its occurrence in Arunachal Pradesh is confirmed.

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37. PITS WITH INFLATED TRICHOMES ON UNDER SURFACE OF LEAVES OF *BAUHINIA MALABARICA* ROXB., LEGUMINOSAE: CAESALPINIOIDEAE

(With one plate)

Bauhinia subgen. *Piliostigma* sect. *Piliostigma* is represented in India by two species, namely *Bauhinia foveolata* Dalz. and *B. malabarica* Roxb.

Dalzell (in *J. Linn. Soc.* 13: 188. 1872) while describing *B. foveolata* mentioned, "The structure of the under surface of the leaf is very curious. There are numerous pits within the small areolae of the reticulations; and each is tenanted by one minute seed-like body attached to the

cavity by a fine thread."

The aforesaid seed-like body is actually an inflated trichome that was also known by various other terms in the past (see Tucker *et al.* in *Bot. J. Linn. Soc.* 88: 291-301. 1984).

In the course of my study, I have observed that a few to many fine pits (some of them not so prominent as in *B. foveolata*) with an inflated trichome in each of them are present within the areolae of the reticulations on the under surface